

# The Hong Kong Telegraph.

No. 56.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 1881.

[PRICE—\$16 PER ANNUM.

## Shipping.

### FOR MANILA.

THE Steamship  
"ESMERALDA,"  
Captain Talbot, will be despatched for  
the above Port on TUESDAY, the  
23rd Instant, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
RUSSELL & Co.  
Hongkong, August 17, 1881.

### To be Let.

#### TO LET.

TWO HOUSES in STAUNTON  
STREET, Nos. 9 and 11, each  
containing 4 Rooms, bath rooms, &c.  
water laid on.

Rent, \$25 per month.

Apply to

J. M. GUEDES, Jr.  
Hongkong, 30th July, 1881.

#### TO LET AT SPRING GARDENS.

THREE HOUSES containing Three  
Rooms on Upper Storey, with  
servants' quarters, &c., at \$15. per  
month.

Also Upper Storey of House No. 213  
B. Spring Gardens, containing Two  
Rooms, Kitchen, and Bathroom at  
\$10. per month.

Water laid on to all the houses.

Apply to

F. PEREIRA.  
112, Spring Gardens.  
Hongkong, August 1st, 1881.

#### TO LET.

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.  
ONE Basement, Two First Floors,  
One Top Floor and a fine large  
Stone Godown at the Blue Buildings,  
Praya East.

Rent Moderate.

Apply to

J. M. GUEDES, Jr.  
Hongkong, 26th July, 1881.

### T. N. DRISCOLL.

TAILOR, HOSIER, HATTER,  
AND  
GENERAL OUTFITTER.  
45, and 47, QUEEN'S-ROAD.

#### NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

T. N. DRISCOLL,  
TAILOR, HOSIER, HATTER, and  
GENERAL OUTFITTER,  
begs to intimate that on September  
1st he will remove to the New  
Premises No. 6, Queen's-road Central,  
next door to the Chartered Bank of  
India, Australia and China.  
Hongkong, 10th August, 1881.

### RECORD of AMERICAN and FOREIGN SHIPPING.

Agents,

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

### J. AND R. TENNENT'S ALE and PORTER.

DAVID CORSAR & SONS'  
Merchant Navy  
Navy Boiled  
Long Flax  
Crown

ARNHOLD KARBERG & Co.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

### C. L. THEVENIN.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,  
AND COMMISSION AGENT.  
HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDING,  
QUEEN'S-ROAD CENTRAL.

A. MILLAR & Co.,  
PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS,  
COPPERSMITHS, AND BRASS-  
FOUNDERS, OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE  
FLEISCHER'S BUILDINGS, QUEEN'S-ROAD  
EAST. WORKS—SPRING  
GARDENS, WANCHAI

## Intimations.

### LE CERCLE-TRANSPORTS.

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME D'ASSURANCE  
MARITIME MARSEILLE.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....15,000,000 Francs.  
CAPITAL PAID-UP..... 3,750,000 Francs.

The Undersigned, having been ap-  
pointed AGENTS of the above Company,  
are prepared to GRANT POLICIES  
on MARINE RISKS to all parts of  
the World.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

### HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

#### NOTICE.

During my absence from Hongkong,  
Mr. ROBERT COOKE will act as  
Secretary.

By Order of the Board,  
D. GILLIES,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

### D. K. GRIFFITH & Co.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE  
LONDON AERATED  
WATERS,  
AND GENERAL AGENTS.  
7, Beaconsfield Arcade.

### Afong, Photographer,

HAS A LARGER COLLECTION of  
VIEWS than any other in  
CHINA.

Miniatures Painted on Ivory from \$7.

Oil Paintings on Canvas from \$5.

Cartes de Visite, Cabinet, and all  
other Styles of Portraits at equally  
moderate prices executed under the  
supervision and management of  
D. K. GRIFFITHS,  
Studio 8, Queen's-road.

### ECA DA SILVA & Co.

GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS  
AND AUCTIONEERS.

IMPORTERS OF PARISIAN  
GOODS, SPANISH WINES, AND  
GENUINE HAVANA CIGARS.

Special lines in Fancy and Plain  
SATIN, SILK, AND GAUZE DRESSES.  
A variety of Richly TRIMMED  
COSTUMES, from the first houses  
in Paris.  
Elegant Dressing & Morning  
GOWNS.

BATHING DRESSES in the latest  
Style.

MUSLIN SHAWLS, CRAVATS,  
and FICHUS.

An assortment of Fine FRENCH  
CORSETS.

Ex recent Mail Steamers.

Ladies' and Children's STRAW  
HATS in great variety.

PARASOLS and UMBRELLAS.

RIBBONS and SASHES of every  
description.

Silk and Lisle Thread STOCKINGS.

COLLARS and CUFFS in latest  
Fashions.

SATIN and KID SHOES.

White and Colored KID GLOVES.

Gentlemen's SILK and SATIN  
SCARVES.

French BOOTS and SHOES.

A large collection of Elegant Art-  
icles, suitable for presents, from the  
Grand Magasin du Louvre.

Rosio & Lubin's Celebrated  
PERFUMES.

The most varied collection of Fancy  
Goods in the Colony.

STIRRIES of the Finest Quality  
at extremely low prices.

Note the address, 48, Queen's-road  
Central.  
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

## Intimations.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA  
DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Half-yearly Meeting of the  
Shareholders will be held in the  
Office of the Company, No. 11, Praya  
Central, on MONDAY, August 29th,  
1881, at 3.30 p.m., for the purpose  
of receiving the Report of the Directors  
and a Statement of Accounts to 30th  
June, 1881.

The Transfer Books of the Company  
will be closed from the 15th to the 29th  
instant, inclusive.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
R. COOKE,  
Acting Secretary.  
Hongkong, 9th August, 1881.

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE ENGLISH and AMERICAN  
VARIETY COMBINATION  
will arrive in Hongkong by an early  
steamer from Manila, and give  
THREE ENTERTAINMENTS  
of their Startling and Wonderful  
Performances.

The Company is now giving its fare-  
well performances in Manila to crowded  
houses.

J. S. LEOPOLD,  
Manager.

Manila, Aug. 12, 1881.

### WANTED TO RENT at Kowloon.

A HOUSE with 4 Rooms.  
Furnished or Unfurnished.

Apply stating particulars to  
R. L.

Hongkong Telegraph Office.  
Hongkong, August 11, 1881.

A NATIVE or INDIA, just return-  
ed from England, would be glad  
to communicate with any one requiring  
the Services of a CLERK or SHOP  
ASSISTANT. Salary no Object.

For further Particulars, apply to  
"J. F." at the Office of this Paper.  
Hongkong, August 11, 1881.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE Public are informed that the  
Scrip in the above named Com-  
pany, for Shares numbered 5540, 5541,  
5542, and 5543, has been stolen,  
and that application has been made  
that the same may be cancelled and New  
Scrip issued.

Hongkong, 30th July, 1881.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE Public are informed that the  
undermentioned Scrip in the  
above named Company has been stolen,  
and that application has been made  
that the same may be cancelled and New  
Scrip issued.

Scrip No. 43, dated 14th January,  
1881, for 5 shares Nos. 297/301.

Scrip No. 196, dated 23rd March,  
1881, for 5 shares Nos. 756/760.

Hongkong, 30th July, 1881.

William Schmidt & Co.

GUNMAKERS, &c.

BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

Arms, Ammunitions, and Requisites  
of every description.

Arms Repaired, Cleaned, or Converted  
at moderate charges.

Sporting Guns and Ammunition  
always on hand.

## For Sale.

### SAYLE & CO.'S SHOWROOMS.

Ex S.S. "Gleniffer."

Plain Coloured SATEENS in New  
Shades.  
Striped Zephyr WASHING MA-  
TERIALS.  
French POMPADOUR PRINTS.  
French SHIRTING PRINTS.  
Coloured and White PAJAMA  
FLANNELS.  
A Splendid Assortment of Black  
FRINGES.  
BEADED GIMPS in every width and  
style.  
Ombre RIBBONS, SCARFS, and  
GOSSAMERS.  
Coloured and Black SILK and BONE  
BUTTONS.  
Hair, Tooth, and Nail BRUSHES.  
Cheap Gilt, Alma, and Link NECK-  
LETS.

Ex S.S. "Ancona."

New Coloured and Black Dress MA-  
TERIALS.  
Specialities in POMPADOUR SA-  
TEENS.  
Novelties in Untrimmed HATS and  
BONNETS.  
BONNET and HAT SHAPES.  
Ladies' LEATHER BAGS.  
Infants' Cloaks and Pelisses.  
A choice assortment of Baby LINEN.  
Ladies' UNDERCLOTHING.  
FANS—painted in New Designs.  
SCISSORS and POCKET KNIVES.  
SEWING MACHINES with latest  
Improvements.

VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG.

### KELLY & WALSH

HAVE just received  
The Revised New Testament.  
Life of Lord Beaconsfield.  
Bergen's Seamanship.  
Colonel Gordon's Africa.  
Captain Hayes' Veterinary Notes for  
Horse Owners.  
Hole's Book about Roses.  
Rigg's Treatise on Steam Engine.  
Boulger's History of China.  
American Collections of Modern Music.  
Cigarette Machines.  
Clarke's Manual of Engineering.  
Knight's Engineering Dictionary.  
Lavater's Physiognomy.  
King's War-ships of Europe.  
Sawyer's Electric Lighting.  
Wade's Tzu-Erh-Chi.  
Fyfe's History of Europe.  
ALL THE NEW NOVELS OF THE DAY.  
Pinto's Through Africa, in Portuguese.  
New Dance Music! New Songs!  
New French Novels

Large Stock, New Pipes.  
Sweet Caporal, Old Judge, Entre Nous  
and other popular Cigarettes.  
Empress of India Cigarettes.  
New Birthday Cards.  
New Scrap Albums.  
All the Novelties from Vienna, Lou-  
don, Paris and America.  
Summer Games, Lawn Tennis, Croquet,  
&c.  
New Fine Art Goods.  
New designs in Playing Cards.  
The Japanese Lacquer Playing Cards.  
Mathematical Instruments.  
Colour Boxes and Artist's Sundries.  
New Menu and Name Cards.  
New designs in Stationery.  
A new stock of Tauchnitz Novels.  
A large stock of well finished European  
ACCOUNT BOOKS in full and  
half binding, also Ladies' and Gen-  
tlemen's Chit Books.  
Hongkong, June 15th, 1881.

### ED. CHASTEL & CO.,

WINE MERCHANTS,

Marine House, 15, Queen's-road.

HAVE for sale ex recent arrivals, Light Breakfast CLARETS in quarts and  
pints. After Dinner CLARETS in quarts and pints.

CHATEAU LAFITE, MARGAUX, LAROSE, LEOVILLE CLOS DE  
MAURIN, &c. &c.

De St. Marceaux & Co's CHAMPAGNE in quarts, pints and half-pints.

CLARET in WOOD.

CHARTREUSE, CURAÇOA, MARASCHINO.

Price list on application.

### G. FALCONER & Co.,

WATCH AND CHRONOMETER  
MANUFACTURERS

AND

JEWELLERS.  
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,  
CHARTS AND BOOKS.

No. 46, QUEEN'S-ROAD CENTRAL.

### J. ULLMANN & Co.

42, QUEEN'S-ROAD, CENTRAL, 42.

Importers of WATCHES,  
CLOCKS, MUSICAL BOXES, MARINE  
and EYE GLASSES, in great  
varieties, and General Goods.

N.B.—Watches carefully repaired  
at moderate rates.

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD,  
WANCHAI.

OREGON PINE SPARS  
AND LUMBER

always on hand.

L. MALLORY,  
Proprietor.  
Hongkong, 24th June, 1881.

### Chs. J. GAUPP & Co.

CHRONOMETER, WATCH, AND  
CLOCK-MAKERS,

Jewellers, Silver-smiths, and

Opticians.

Charts and Books.

Nautical Instruments.

Sole Agents  
for Louis Audemars' Watches;  
awarded the highest Prizes at every  
Exhibition;

and for Voigtlander and Sohn's  
Celebrated OPERA GLASSES,

MARINE GLASSES, and SPYGLASSES  
No. 38, Queen's-road Central.

### STAG HOTEL.

QUEEN'S-ROAD CENTRAL.

Good accommodation for Visitors,  
English & American Billiards,

Tiffin at One o'clock.

Dinner at 7.30.

This Hotel is most centrally situated  
and within easy distance of the prin-  
cipal landing places.

J. COOK,  
Proprietor.



**A. S. WATSON & Co.**  
**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL**  
**DRUGGISTS,**  
**GENERAL CHEMISTS,**  
 AND  
 Manufacturers of the following,  
**AERATED WATERS, viz:**  
**SODA, TONIC, SASSAPARILLA,**  
**AND POTASH, LEMONADE,**  
**GINGERADE, RASPBERRYADE,**  
**AND PHOSPHORIC CHAMPAGNE.**  
 Deliveries in Town and Harbour from  
 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.  
 SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,  
 PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.  
 Prompt Attention given to Coast  
 Orders.  
**HONGKONG DISPENSARY.**  
 HONGKONG.  
**SHANGHAI PHARMACY,**  
 SHANGHAI.  
**CANTON DISPENSARY,**  
 CANTON.  
**THE DISPENSARY,**  
 FOOCHOW.

#### Notices to Correspondents.

All communications should be addressed The Editor "Hongkong Telegraph," 15, Wellington Street.

All letters for publication must be written on one side of the paper only.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with all communications intended for insertion, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

#### Notices to Subscribers.

Subscribers who do not receive their newspapers within thirty-five minutes after the time of publication will oblige by communicating with the Editor.

Domestic Notices, if properly authenticated, will be inserted free of charge.

#### BIRTHS.

At Hongkong, on the 8th instant, the wife of Mr. W. Ramsey, Chief Engineer of the *Reynoldian*, of a son.

On August 16th at Pattee Villa, Robinson-road, Hongkong, the wife of W. G. Humphreys, of a son.

#### DEATH.

At 139, Queen's-road East, on the night of the 8th instant, Mrs. Elisabeth Lee, aged 59 years.

#### THE

### Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, 18TH AUGUST, 1881.

THE extraordinary fluctuations of the shares of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, on the Stock Exchange during the past few weeks demand more than a passing notice. It is hardly too much to say that a very large amount of the exchange transactions in connection with the stock of this old-established local concern since the adoption of the resolution sub-dividing the 2,000 old shares of \$500 each into 8,000 new shares of \$125, and adding to that number a new issue of 2,000 additional shares, have been of a speculative character, and, moreover, would never have been carried out had such sub-division not taken place. That the sub-division of shares has proved a great boon to sharebrokers and to professional share speculators generally cannot be doubted; that it has in any way improved the prospects or permanent stability of the Company we gravely doubt. With the shares standing at the old rate of \$500, reckless gambling or speculating was, if not altogether prohibited, kept strictly within bounds. The stock, although for years harassed by a powerful opposition, held a firm position in the market, and if the returns were not particularly high, still 6 per cent. per annum, with improving prospects, was not such indifferent interest on a safe investment in these days, when money is to be had all the world over on exceptionally easy terms. There were certainly a good many time transactions in Docks just before the fatal Christmas of 1879, and the experiences of the unfortunates who on that occasion knew too much, or did not know enough, and consequently got hard hit, can scarcely have been totally effaced even by the return of better days. But as a rule this particular stock was not made the medium for extensive gambling business, being regarded generally, as the Company's

Share Register will testify by the small number of transfers made during the course of each year, as a safe, if not a particularly lucrative, investment for capitalists with money not otherwise employed. We are, of course, referring particularly to the past five years.

The sub-division of shares has changed the whole aspect of affairs, and Docks have fairly held their own against all rivals for months past, for the pre-eminence, such as it is, of being the most suitable medium for reckless "plunging," of any of our local enterprises. Considering the easy fashion in which share-brokerage is managed in Hongkong, and the strong spirit of speculation which pervades all classes of the community, the "bulling" and "bearing" which lately have so conspicuously marked the operations in connection with Docks on the Exchange, might have confidently been anticipated, although probably not to the great extent which for some time past has been the subject of general comment, especially among those whose balances happen to be on the wrong side of the book.

On reference to our report of July 15th, we find that Docks were in high favour at 60 per cent. premium for cash, and at 62 for the end of August a large number of time transactions were booked. For the end of the year numerous time bargains at greatly advanced rates on these figures were negotiated. Slowly but surely, without any apparent cause, the stock gradually declined in public favor, until at last a panic set in, and the rush to sell at any price landed the quotation at 43 per cent. on August 11th, and at even a lower rate than this, shares could have been obtained. The "bears" having had a good innings, the "bulls" thought it was time to have their turn, and so the stock at once took an upward jump, and in a couple of days, business having been done at intermediate rates, 56 per cent. became the price current. But not for long, as a "rot" again set in, and in spite of the sale of properties which have been an incubus on the Company's hands for months past at high prices, the shares are still on the downward line, and were vainly offered yesterday at 48 for the end of the month.

These facts speak for themselves without further comment from us. We may, however, give our opinion that if good grounds existed for purchasing the Dock Company's shares a month ago at 60 per cent. premium, nothing has transpired since that time to reduce their market value. The Docks are, with the exception of Aberdeen, fully and profitably employed; the reports about an immediate opposition are entirely unfounded, and prospects generally are of a most favourable character. The inference to be drawn from our remarks is, therefore, that the Stock has been made the medium for share market speculations, about which we do not care at present to hazard any decided opinion. Our views regarding the Dock Company's future prospects will be carefully dealt with in a separate article.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The steamship *Yotung* was docked at Sam-shui-po last night.

We learn that an application has been made by the German Ambassador in London in reference to the appointment of Dr. O. F. von Mollendorff as Vice-Consul for Germany at Hongkong.

Mr. Farrugia for many years Consul at Malta for the Boy of Tunis, has received instructions to hand over the Consulate and its archives to the representatives of the French Republic.

We observe from the *Japan Gazette* that the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales are expected in Japan about the 20th of September. Preparations for their reception are already being made in the Enriokwan.

We are informed by the agents of the Glen Line (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the steamship *Glencoe* left Singapore yesterday, the 17th inst., for this port.

The extra apartment at the back of the erection in front of the Man-Mo Temple was finished yesterday afternoon. The apartment may be entered from Ladder Street or by a by-lane in Hollywood Road. Last night there were exhibited in this place some seven hundred or more Chinese pictures and a few choice dwarf trees.

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers will perform (weather permitting) in the Botanic Gardens to-morrow afternoon. The following is the programme:—

March "Erin," Ravine.  
 Overture "Merrill," Gaiety.  
 Gavotte "Merrill," Gaiety.  
 Valse "Solitaire," Gaiety.  
 Selection "Beatrice de Tenda," Gaiety.  
 Valse "Claribel," Gaiety.

The result of the race for the Goodwood Cup, run on Thursday, July 28th, was telegraphed to India the same day, and appears in the *Straits Times Extra*. We append the names and pedigrees of the winner and placed horses, reserving our usual descriptive report until to-morrow.

#### The Goodwood Cup.

Mr C. Perkins' b.m. Madame Du Barry, by Favorious-Strategy, 1  
 6 years 8st. 11lbs.  
 Mr Craven's b.h. Nottingham, by Winslow-Belle of Kars, 6yrs. 2  
 8st.  
 Mr F. Gretton's b.c. Fernandez, by Sterling-Isola Bella, 4yrs. 3  
 8st. 10lbs.

We have to record a case of sudden death which took place on board the *Nigata Maru*, Captain Wynn, last evening. The deceased, Mr. James Ellis, was for some time chief engineer of one of the Mitsui Bishi Company's steamers in Japan, and was on his way home for the benefit of his health as he was suffering from a disease of the kidneys. During the voyage down from Japan he was in his usual health, but yesterday complained of pains in his shoulder and side and retired early to his cabin, where he was found dead this morning by the purser of the ship. Dr. Stockwell shortly after saw the body, and pronounced death had occurred from natural causes, consequently it is not likely any inquiry into the cause of death will be held. The deceased, who was 60 years of age, leaves a widow and three children at home.

An inquest was opened at the Government Civil Hospital yesterday afternoon, before the Coroner, Mr. Wodehouse, and Messrs. Kruss, Kerr, and Goosmann, on the body of a Chinaman, which up to that time had not been identified. Dr. Marques gave evidence that the body was brought to the hospital at five o'clock on Wednesday morning, but no other witnesses were in attendance, Inspector Craddock, in answer to the Coroner, saying that no notice had been given that the inquest would be held that day. The inquiry was consequently adjourned until Monday next at three p.m. Another inquiry was opened before the same jury relative to the circumstances attending the death of a Chinawoman, named Choi Aloi, aged 42, whose body was found by a lagoon floating in the water a few feet from the beach at Shek Tong Sai. The woman's husband was examined, and another witness, who stated that the deceased left home to go to market at two o'clock in the afternoon, and was not seen again until found in the water by the constable. The inquest was adjourned until Monday next.

We recently noticed the acquisition by the City Hall Museum of a piece of sponge and two blocks of petrified wood, presented by Dr. F. Warrington Eastlake. Through the courtesy of Dr. Eastlake, the father of the donor, we glean the following particulars:—The sponge, which was obtained from Cebu, is of a peculiar formation; at first sight it looks very much like a piece of coral, but on examination it is found to be very soft and extremely light. The two pieces of petrified wood, supposed to be Malaya, were bought from the natives of the Island of Negros (one of the most southern islands of the Philippines) in April last, while on a visit to the Island.

The two blocks weigh about 150 lbs. Dr. Eastlake describes the Island as woody and fertile; the scenery magnificent. With the exception of three or four Europeans and a number of natives engaged in the sugar plantations, the Island may be said to be almost uninhabited, considering its size. It is also said to abound in shells of different sorts and sizes, which may, with patience and trouble, be found. Amongst his collection, we are informed, he possesses two oyster shells of about two and a half to three feet in diameter.

#### NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

We take the following telegrams from the *Straits Times Extra* received by the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamship *Brindisi*, which arrived here last night:—

Constantinople, 27th July.

The Council of the Ulema having refused to confirm, and a majority of Turkish ministry urging the commutation of the sentence of death passed on Midhat Pasha's accomplices, they, with Midhat, have been deported to Arabia.

London, 28th July.

Official despatches have been published concerning Tripoli, in which Lord Granville warns France of the dangers attending her interference in Tripoli, and further states that England cannot tolerate interference of any kind in that quarter.

Lord Dufferin has been instructed to urge upon the Porte the urgent necessity of moderation in respect to Tripoli. M. Bartholomy St. Hilaire has, in reply, explicitly disclaimed any design of the French Government on Tripoli, and admitted the sovereignty of the Sultan.

Advices from the Transvaal state that the Dutch jury have returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the trial of the alleged murderers of Mr. Malcolm.

London, 29th July.

The hitch in negotiations at Pretoria has been removed, and a settlement is shortly expected. England retains the right of passage for her troops through the Transvaal, and will control the foreign relations. The duties of the British Resident in the Transvaal will be the same as those of a Consul-General. Failing the Volksraad's ratification of the Convention in three months the Queen's sovereignty will be revived.

London, 30th July.

The Marquis of Hartington, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that General Hume had been ordered to concentrate his forces at Quetta, but his lordship could not say whether the evacuation of Sibi and the Pishin Valley would thereby be involved.

The Right Hon. Grant Duff starts for India on the 5th October.

Latest advices from the Cape state that Mr. Hudson, Colonial Secretary, has been appointed British Resident in the Transvaal.

Samuel, the claimant for the Umlandesi Chieftainship in Zululand, has collected 3,000 partizans. Mr. John Dunn, who has been appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works, is awaiting England's permission to attack them.

London, 1st August.

A convention between the British Government and the Boers was signed at Pretoria on Saturday.

Mr. Swanton, landlord at Ballydehob, County Cork, has been shot at and mortally wounded.

Lord Hartington, replying to a question, said he had no reason to believe that the Indian Government intend to assist the Ameer, and they have not proposed to employ Anglo-Indian troops for the purpose.

London, 2nd August.

In the Lords last night a long and animated debate took place upon Lord Carlisle's moving the second reading of the Irish Land Bill.

Lord Salisbury recognised the necessity of the bill, but insisted upon radical amendments being introduced.

In the Commons a discussion took place relating to the Land Leaguers at present imprisoned in Ireland. Mr. Parnell was suspended from sitting owing to offensive defiance of the Speaker.

A discussion also took place respecting Russian aggression in Central Asia. Lord Hartington said the Government admitted that the integrity

and independence of Afghanistan was of vital importance to England, and that they would not allow any foreign interference there. The whole matter was under the consideration of Government. The extension of Russian territory in Northern Persia had raised a question of Persian integrity and independence which his Lordship said could never be a matter of indifference to England.

London, 3rd August.

The House of Lords last night resumed the debate upon the Land Bill. The Duke of Argyll made a speech in which he severely criticized it, but eventually the House read the Bill a second time without division.

McGrath, the perpetrator of the attempt to blow up the Liverpool Townhall, has been sentenced to penal servitude for life, and McKeveit, his accomplice, to fifteen years.

Allahabad, 28th July.

The Press Commissioner telegraphs from Simla on the 23th that news had reached Chaman that an action was fought on the morning of the 27th between the Amir's and Ayub's forces. The engagement lasted till 12 noon, when one of the Amir's regiments went over to Ayub's side, and the rest of the Amir's troops dispersed. The guns and baggage were lost.

Allahabad, 29th July.

In the latest battle fought at Kari-zatta the Ghilzai levies and Kandahar sowars went over to Ayub, who secured 18 guns, five lakhs of rupees, and all the baggage. General Ghulam fled towards Kabul.

Simla, 2nd August.

Ayub Khan entered Candahar on Saturday. The infantry and guns were in the citadel and cavalry in the cantonments before Ayub's arrival.

Nineteen Farsiwans and Hazaras were murdered. Quetta all quiet.

The Meerut battery is not ordered to hold itself in readiness specially for Afghanistan, but probably will be sent to Quetta in case of disturbance on the frontier.

We take the subjoined items from the *London and China Express* of July 15th:—

Several petitions for the abolition of the Opium traffic have been presented this week to the House of Commons.

The steamer *Glencoe*, from Foochow, for London (tea), put into Malta on the 9th inst. with a boiler tube burst and patent stopper leaking.

Advices from New York, June 20th, state that the *Papa*, which has arrived from Hongkong, reports:—April 15th, took a N.E. to S.W. gale, lasting thirty-six hours, with high seas, causing the vessel to leak slightly.

Chen Lan Pin, the Chinese Minister, visited the White House at Washington on the 14th inst., presenting the sympathy of the Chinese Government for General Garfield in the attempt that has been made on his life.

Admiral Ting of the Chinese navy, attended by Captain Clayson, was present at the Royal Review at Windsor on the 9th instant. He has since returned to Newcastle. The trials of the two cruisers were appointed to take place yesterday, the 14th instant, at Newcastle.

Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald Callaghan, Governor of the Bahamas, on his way to England on sick leave, arrived at New York from Nassau on the 9th instant, and went to the Metropolitan Hotel, where he died four hours after his arrival. At the inquest it was shown that death had been caused by paralysis of the heart, induced by a long attack of intermittent fever. The body will be embalmed and brought to England by his wife, who accompanied him. The deceased gentleman was a member of the Irish Bar, and had been Attorney-General for Hongkong, Governor of Labuan, the Gambia Settlement, and the Falkland Islands, previous to being appointed to the Governorship of the Bahama Islands.

Young Lady: "Very changeable weather, Mrs. Wiggins, isn't it?" Mrs. Wiggins: "Yes, miss, it be. Fast 'ot, yer see, then cold, then 'ot ag'in; but it's a blessing, 'cos if the weather wasn't a little variable there wouldn't be no variety in some folk's conversations."



## JAPAN NEWS.

The Government has allotted a sum of three thousand yen to Shidzuoka-ken, for the relief of sufferers from a fever which now prevails in the various districts of that prefecture.

It is said that the meeting of the Local Governors will be held in the capital early in February next, under the presidency of His Excellency General Yamada.

Mr. Yoshida Masabaru, who was sent to Persia last year, and returned lately, after proceeding from that country to Turkey and England, was presented to the Emperor on the 25th ult., and had the honour of describing in part the countries he had visited.

Official announcement has been made of the birth of a daughter to the Emperor, who has received the news by telegram.

On the 29th ultimo, Admiral Yeno-moto received permission from the Bureau of Decorations to wear the Order of the Lion recently presented to him by the Shah of Persia.

It is reported that the three principal statues belonging to the *Gokurakuji* temple, in Katagi-mura, Adzuki district, Saouki province, all of pure gold, and valued at fifty thousand yen, were stolen during the night of the 20th ultimo; and that due notice has been given to the police authorities.

His Excellency General Yamagata, now travelling in Etchu and the neighbourhood, is said to project the establishment of a silk factory in Fushiki.

The *Akibono Shinbun* hears that the sugar plantations in Formosa have been considerably damaged by storms, and that the crop is seriously threatened.

The Governor of Tokiyo *Iu* has reported to the Government that coffee plants, imported from Hawaii last year, are growing luxuriantly in the Bonin Islands.

The *Choya Shinbun* remarks that the dock now in course of construction in the Hiogo Engineering Establishment is designed on a great scale, and will involve in its completion an outlay of more than two hundred thousand yen.—*Weekly Mail*.

## LATEST COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, August 18th, 1881.  
One o'clock P.M.

As usual on mail days, business in shares this morning has been of a nominal character, and there was nothing done yesterday afternoon worthy of special comment. Docks are still on offer at 48 without finding purchasers. Banks have not even been mentioned. A few of the Chinese Insurance Company's shares were sold yesterday at 300, and a few more could be obtained at that price. Chinese Fires are not quite so firm as they have been, and sellers are offering the stock at \$285 per share, without, however, finding customers. Sugars, on the other hand, are rather firmer, holders of the stock asking for \$155 per share, ex. div. They were previously on offer at \$150. A good deal of business has been done in the Chinese Silver Loans of 1878 and 1881, and both may now be quoted at the same rate, namely 3½% premium. Exchange quotations are one-eighth better than yesterday in telegraphic transfers, and other rates remain unaltered.

## Shares.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Shares—106 per cent. premium, ex. Div.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,675 per share ex. dividend.  
China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$1,700 per share.  
North China Insurance Company—Tls. 1,125 per share.  
Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 820 per share.  
Chinese Insurance Company, —\$300 per share, Sales.  
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 148 per share.  
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company Shares—\$995 per share.  
China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$285 per share, Sellers.  
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—48% premium, Sellers.

Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Company's Shares—\$24 per share premium, Sellers.

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—Tls. 162 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$82 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$110 per share, Sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$155 per share, Ex. Div.

China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures)—3 per cent premium.

Hongkong Ice Company's Shares—\$127½ per share, Sellers.

Hongkong & China Bakery Company, Limited—\$43½ per share.

Chinese Imperial Government Loan of 1878—3½% premium.

Chinese Imperial Government Loan of 1881—3½% premium.

## Exchange.

On LONDON,—  
Bank Bills, T.T., ..... 3/8½

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight, 3/8½

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight, 3/8½

Credits, at 4 months' sight, ... 3/8½

Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight, ..... 3/9

On PARIS,—  
Bank Bills, on demand, ..... 4.63

Credits, at 4 months' sight, ... 4.73

On BOMBAY,—  
Bank, T.T., ..... 222½

On CALCUTTA,—  
Bank, T.T., ..... 222½

On SHANGHAI,—  
Bank, T.T., ..... 72

Private, 30 days' sight, ..... 72½

## Hongkong Temperature.

(Taken at Messrs. Falconer & Co.'s Register, Queen's-road).

HONGKONG, 17th & 18th August,  
BAROMETER—1 P.M. .... 29.756

Do. 4 P.M. .... 29.722

THERMOMETER—1 P.M. .... 85.

Do. 4 P.M. .... 82.

Do. 1 P.M. (Wet bulb) 82.

Do. 4 P.M. Do 79.

BAROMETER—9 A.M. .... 29.808

THERMOMETER—9 A.M. .... 80.

Do. 9 A.M. (Wet bulb) 78.

Do. Maximum ..... 85.

Do. Minimum (over night) 79.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## ARRIVALS.

August 17, *Marlborough*, British str., 1,175, R. Sanderson, Singapore 10th August, General.—Batterfield & Swire.

August 17, *Sunda*, British steamer, 1,078, Reeves, Nagasaki August 13th, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

August 17, *Carisbrooke*, British str., 960, H. Wharton, Swatow 16th August, General.—Bun Hin & Co.

August 17, *Nona*, German steamer, 669, H. Waefel, Saigon 12th August, General.—Ed. Schellhass & Co.

August 17, *Brindisi*, British steamer, 2,261, Goo. Lee, London 15th June, Bombay 30th July, Galle 5th August, Penang 10th, and Singapore 12th, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

August 17, *Gaelic*, British steamer, for San Francisco, &c.

August 17, *Gervase*, British steamer, for Amoor River.

August 17, *Menmuir*, British steamer, for Foochow.

August 18, *Kang-chi*, Chinese steamer, for Hoihow.

August 18, *Pernambuco*, British str., for Saigon.

August 18, *Norden*, Danish steamer, for Shanghai.

## PASSENGERS.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Marlborough*, British steamer, from Singapore, 170 Chinese.

Per *Sunda*, British steamer, from Nagasaki, 2 Europeans deck, and 7 Chinese.

Per *Carisbrooke*, British steamer, from Swatow, 455 Chinese.

Per *Nona*, German steamer, from Saigon, 156 Chinese.

Per *Brindisi*, British steamer, for Hongkong.—From Southampton.

Captain T. M. G. Thackeray, 1st West India Regt., and Lieut. J. E. Bearcroft, R.N. From Brindisi.—Mr. M. Murray.

From Penang.—Surgeon Brisbane W. Large, and 22 Chinese. From Singapore.—34 Chinese. From Singapore for Yokohama.—Mr. Dollmann. From Bombay for Shanghai.—Mr. Gubbay.

## DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Yokohama, Mr. F. D. Palmer, General Van Buren; 4 Europeans and 2 Chinese steerage. For San Francisco, Capt. H. Nelson, and 286 Chinese.

## SHIPPING REPORTS.

The German steamer *Nona*, from Saigon, reports fine weather with Southerly winds.

The British steamer *Carisbrooke*, from Swatow, reports had much rain and variable winds from N.W. and West, with heavy S.S.W. swell.

The British steamer *Sunda*, from Nagasaki, reports fresh and strong S. E. winds for two days' after leaving, with high Southerly swell; thence moderate variable winds and cloudy weather until arrival at Hongkong.

## MAILS.

The following mails will close:—

To-day, 18th August,—

For the United Kingdom and Europe via Brindisi; to the Straits Settlements, Batavia, Barmah, Ceylon, India, Aden, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar, and Mauritius, per *Zambesi*; printed matter at 2 p.m., letters at 3 p.m. For Straits Settlements, per *Carisbrooke*, at 1.30 p.m. For Manila, per *Emmy*, at 3.30 p.m. For Pakhoi, per *Tung-ting*, at 5 p.m.

To-morrow, 19th August,—

For Straits and Bombay, per *Adria*, at 3.30 p.m. For Nagasaki and Yokohama, per *Sunda*, at 5 p.m. For Kobe and Yokohama, per *Niigata Maru*, at 5 p.m. For Bangkok, per *Consolation*, at 5 p.m. For Hoihow, Pakhoi and Haiphong, per *Olympia*, at 5 p.m. For Shanghai, per *Chinkiang*, at 11.30 a.m.

On Saturday, 20th August,—

For Swatow, Amoy and Foochow, per *Thales*, at 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, 23rd August,—

For Manila, per *Esmeralda*, at 3.30 p.m.

On Thursday, 25th August,—

For the United Kingdom and Europe, via Naples; to Saigon, Straits Settlements, Batavia, Barmah, Ceylon, India (via Malras), the Australasian Colonies, Aden, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar, per *Amazona*, for printed matter at 10 a.m., and letters at 11 a.m.

## SIAM.

The *Siam Advertiser* of the 9th July gives the following paragraph regarding the cholera epidemic in Bangkok:—A few weeks since we alluded to the fact that there were rumors that there had recently been some cases of cholera in Rahaang. Since then this disease has made its appearance in Bangkok in numbers calculated to create alarm. The severity of the temporary epidemic is past, and people may rest assured that with proper care the pestilence is over. Last Tuesday (June 28th) while at the Siamese temple Wat Sampong, we were told that on the 2nd of July 7 Chinamen who had died of cholera had been brought there for interment. On the 3rd four bodies, two males and two females. On the 4th four males. At the time of our visit on the 5th, which was about 10 a.m., no bodies, on that day, had yet been brought for interment. The bodies of persons who had died of cholera, and were reported at Wat Sakate temple were as follows:—June 27th, 7; 28th, 15; 29th, 16; 30th, 30; July 1st, 40; 2nd, 52; 3rd, 64; 4th, 36; 5th, up to time of our visit, 14. We have a report, purporting to come from this temple, which gives a somewhat smaller death-rate. These statements are enough to show that the pestilence has raged and caused a panic, and whatever the actual mortality, it has not reached the alarming dimensions of 1820, 1849, and 1873. Full statements of the ravages of the cholera in those years are given in our Siam Repository for 1873. Ever since the severe outbreak of this pestilence in 1820, there have been annually cases of cholera in almost all countries; some years more,

some years less. At intervals of 25 or 30 years the ravages of the disease seem to attain the greatest fury. Between these intervals there are years when the disease is more prevalent than in others. This is the 8th year since the last great panic. As we have opportunity we will endeavour to obtain the most approximate estimates of the deaths from cholera since the 27th ult.

## ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Ever since the early days of electric science the aim of all electricians has been to discover some means of utilising the enormous force which can be developed by electricity, and an impetus was given in this direction by the construction of powerful dynamo-magnetic machines for the purpose of the electric light. Naturally the first thought was to transmit the power thus generated to machinery, which could thus be worked at a considerable distance; and following this came the idea of locomotion by electricity. Dr. Siemens, whose electrical researches are well known, has long thought of employing these machines for working elevated railroads, and in the summer of 1879 the model of an electric railway was shown at the Berlin Exhibition similar to that exhibited during the past few weeks at the Crystal Palace. The electrical force is generated by a stationary engine at one end, and the rails themselves are used as conductors of the electricity. The car itself is the connecting link, and contact can be made or broken at pleasure by a lever in charge of the guard. This communicates through a wire brush with a central rail, insulated by being supported on wood blocks. Through this rail the current is sent from the primary machine. When contact is made the electrical circuit, being complete, sets in motion a small dynamo-machine beneath the car, and this in turn moves the wheels. The current passes away through the tires of the wheels to the exterior rails, whence it is conveyed by a wire back to the primary machine. The Railway at the Crystal Palace is exhibited by the Societe Anonyme d'Electricite de Brussels, is situated on the upper terrace, and is circular, being about 300 yards long. The engine draws three carriages, containing eighteen passengers, at the rate of ten miles an hour. Dr. Siemens has also constructed another railway between Lichterfeld, a suburban station of Berlin, and the Military Academy. It is about a mile and a half in length and is working successfully, the time occupied in the transit being about ten minutes. In a country abounding in waterfalls the expense of working such a railway would be reduced to a minimum, a water-power could be used for setting the primary or stationary engine in motion.

A writer in *Vanity Fair* tells a good story of an Irishman: "He told he was about half landlord and half tenant, and he said that he meant to go in for the popular cry, 'No rint!' But how about the land you have let?" said I. "The rint I pay is a few pounds more than rint I get, so I'd be in about the same position, and think of the popularity of it."

Vienna has several places of refuge for the destitute, called "warming-rooms," where all persons who are in need are allowed to make themselves comfortable, and are given soup, coffee or tea, with bread, free of charge. No inquiries are made as to character or calling. It is sufficient that they say they are cold and hungry. Large stoves warm these places, benches run along the walls, and newspapers are provided, but mainly on account of the advertisements of help wanted. The food and drink are given to each person twice every day, and at night those who need lodgings are enabled to sleep there. The experiment has proved so satisfactory that another place of the kind is about to be opened, large enough to accommodate eight hundred persons. Since December 6th, forty-nine thousand seven hundred and thirty-six persons have been assisted at these places with food, lodging or otherwise, and between December 15th, and January 20th, not a single instance of suicide traceable to poverty was reported, although self-murder from that cause was not infrequent before.—*Bow Bells*.

## MacEwen, Frickel &amp; Co.

GENERAL STOREKEEPERS, &c.  
HAVE FOR SALE.

## Groceries.

Crosse & Blackwell's, Celebrated Household Stores.  
John Moir & Sons', Celebrated Household Stores.

American Stores of all descriptions.  
Huntley & Palmer's BISCUITS & CAKES,  
BUTTER Danish & French, Philippe & Cannard's PATES &c.,

CHUTNIES & CURRY  
POWDER, TAYSSONEAU'S  
FRUITS in juice.

COFFEE, SUGAR, &c., &c.  
Wines, Spirits, &c.

CUTLER PALMER & Co.'s "CARTE  
BLANCHE" HEIDSIECK & Co.'s MO-  
NOPOL, pts. and qts. ADOLPHE  
COLLIN'S BOUZY CABINET.

MUMM'S (JULES) CHAMPAGNE  
pts. and qts.

NEYEN'S (BOUZY) BOUZY,  
pts. and qts.

EXTRA SEC. quarts.  
Charles Heidsieck's WHITE SEAL,

pts. and qts. YEUVE CLUQUOT PON-  
SARDIN, pts. and qts. Theophile Roederer & Co.'s VERZENAY MOUSSEUX,  
pts. and qts.

Krug's CHAMPAGNE, pts. and qts.

CUTLER PALMER & Co.'s CHATEAU MOUTON, LORMONT, pints, and quarts.

ARAUZAN (Chateau), pints and quarts, PERMITAGE LUDON, THIBIEUF (Chateau), pints and quarts.

CHATEAU LAROSE (Cuvier & Adet's), pints and quarts.

CHATEAU LARITE, pints and quarts. IRES GRAVES, pints and quarts.

BREAKFAST CLARET, pints & quarts. OLD INVALID CLARET.

St. JULIEN, &c., &c. Breakfast Claret.

Burgundy, Hock, Sherries, &c. Chamberlain, Chablis (White), Liebfraumilch, Hockheimer, Niersteiner, Steinberger, Radesheimer

Berg, Konin Victoria Berg, Chateau Yquem, Grand Vin, Haut Sauterne

Marsala, Saccione's

Pale Dry White Seal Sherry, Yellow Seal Amontillado Sherry, Cutler Palmer and Co.'s Sherry, Invalid Port (1848), Hunt's Port.

Brandy, Whisky, Liqueurs, &c. 1, 2 and 3-star Hennessy's Brandy, La Grande Marque Brandy, Cutler Palmer & Co.'s

Brandy, Rouyer Guillet & Co.'s Brandy, 1 to 4 stars; Finest Old Bourbon Whisky, highly recommended, Kinahan's LL Irish Whisky, Jamieson's Irish

Whisky, Royal Glendee Whisky, AVII Gin, Swaine Board & Co.'s Old Tom

Gin; La Grande Chartreuse, Green and Yellow, Maraschino de Zara, Curacao pints and quarts; Angostura, Boker's and Orange Bitters, &c., &c.

BASS'S ALE, bottled by Cameron and Saunders, pints and quarts.

GUINNESS'S STOUT, bottled by E & J. Burke, pints and quarts.

PILSENER BEER, in quarts.

DRAUGHT ALE and PORTER, by the Gallon.

Fine ALE, bottled by MacEwen, Frickel & Co. ALE and PORTER, in hogsheads.

## Aerated Waters.

SODA WATER,  
LEMONADE,

TONIC WATER,  
SARSAPARILLA,

&c., &c., &c.

The Finest Stocks of CIGARS, CAVITE CHEROOTS, PRINCESA CHEROOTS, PRINCESA CIGARS, AROCEROS, VEGUEROS,

&c., &c.

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Cutlery, Crockery, and Glassware.

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Sailmaking and Rigging promptly executed.







NEWS for the ENGLISH MAIL.

As Mr. James Russell, the present Acting Puisne Judge, will, on the appointment of a successor to Sir John Smale as Chief Justice of this colony, step into his proper position of Registrar General, it may not be out of place to briefly refer to one or two matters of importance, which will no doubt occupy Mr. Russell's attention, as soon as he assumes the reins of office. We have heard a great deal since Mr. Cecil Smith left Hongkong, about the emasculation of the Registrar General's Department, and the abject condition into which it has been brought, by what our local contemporaries, and a few parasitical correspondents who are adepts at villifying and backbiting under the safe protection of editorial interests, and an alphabetical *nom de plume*, term Governor Hennessy's arbitrary interference with departmental details; but as we are in ignorance of the rights and privileges which have been curtailed, we are not prepared at this stage either to accuse or defend His Excellency for any action he may have taken in the matter. We propose however to deal with a certain branch of our social system, which used to form one of the principal duties of the Registrar General and his subordinates, and which has occupied our attention for years past.

On the 17th October 1877, in conjunction with the late Mr. John Jack and Mr. Conrad H. Blum, we formed a jury before Mr. James Russell, Coroner, summoned to enquire into the death of Fung-a-Sz, a Chinese female, who had fallen down a smoke-hole at No. 42 Peel-street, whilst escaping from the pursuit of Inspector Lee, who had forced his way into the house on information that it was used as an unlicensed brothel. The enquiry, we remember, was a very tedious and protracted one, lasting over three days, when it was adjourned until the 29th October, as another woman, named Tai-Tau, who had also fallen down the smoke-hole, was in the Government Civil Hospital and not expected to recover. This woman died on the 27th and an inquest was held on the afternoon of that day, which, after an examination of the body, was adjourned till the 29th, when both cases were taken together. A vast amount of information relative to the working of the Registrar General's Department with regard to licensed and unlicensed prostitution, was elicited during the above enquiries, and it is not too much to say that a state of affairs was disclosed, which peremptorily called for the interference of the Government. With our brother jurors we felt strongly that the two women had met their deaths through the illegal acts of Inspector Lee in forcing his way into the house, and afterwards pursuing them on the house-tops, where in great bodily fear and with the hope to evade capture, (which by the way, would have been an illegal act in itself, as the women had committed no offence, and were merely servants, and not occupiers of the supposed unlicensed brothel), they threw themselves down the smoke-hole, receiving fatal injuries. However as the Inspector was working in strict accordance with the unwritten laws, or recognised practices of his department, and had acted in this case exactly as he had done in previous instances which had come under the notice of his superiors in the ordinary procedure, without receiving either censure for his errors or definite instructions for his future guidance, it would have been manifestly unfair to have saddled him with blame which was properly attributable either to the neglect of his chiefs, or the inherent defects of the organisation of his department, for which he was certainly in no way responsible. Two of the jurors were strongly in favour of a verdict of manslaughter against the Inspector, not so much for any decided

opinion which was held as to his personal culpability in indirectly causing the death of the two women, as for the purpose of bringing what was considered the disgraceful manner in which the laws affecting prostitutes and prostitution were carried out by the Registrar-General's Department before the direct notice of the Government and the general public; and but for the suggestion of the third juror, who differed with his colleagues, to call in the Coroner to assist the jury in what promised to be a rather awkward dilemma, a verdict of manslaughter would most certainly have been returned. Eventually "death by misadventure" was decided on, but to this finding, the jury added a special clause in the following terms:—"The jury aforesaid are further of opinion that Inspector Lee, exceeded his powers by entering the house No. 42, Peel-street, without a warrant or any direct authority from the Registrar General or Superintendent of Police, and would strongly recommend that the whole system of obtaining convictions against keepers of unlicensed brothels be thoroughly revised, as the present practice is, in their opinion, both illegal and immoral." The representations of the gentlemen forming the jury, embodied in their special finding, were on the 30th October, forwarded by the Coroner to Mr. Cecil C. Smith, who was at that time Acting Colonial Secretary, with the result that on the 12th November, His Excellency, the Governor appointed a Commission, consisting of the Hon. W. Keswick, Mr. T. C. Hayllar, Q.C., and Dr. E. J. Eitel, for the purpose of "instituting and prosecuting all needful or proper enquiries in that behalf, and to take evidence in the premises, and to report to me all evidence so taken by you, and also your opinions thereon." All papers, documents, and records of every description, relating to the subject, in the custody of the several Government departments, were placed at the disposal of the Commissioners, and every facility was given them for the examination of witnesses, and for procuring all available evidence likely to be of interest.

The first meeting of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the working of the Contagious Diseases Ordinances of 1857 and 1867, was held on the 24th November 1877, when the whole of the members were present, and Mr. T. C. Hayllar was elected chairman. After discussing preliminaries, and arranging the scope and plan of the enquiry, the legitimate business of the meeting commenced with the examination of Mr. Cecil Clementi Smith, the Registrar General and Colonial Treasurer of the colony. The detailed labors of the Commissioners, lasting for a period of about eighteen months, have been published in a special volume by the Government, and form a most revolting record of prurient filthiness, surpassing anything we have ever read.

In December 1878 Mr. Hayllar and Dr. Eitel, Mr. Keswick having temporarily left the colony, sent in a comprehensive report on the evidence brought before them which occupies 53 pages of closely printed foolscap. The opinions of these two members of the Commission may be briefly summarised as follows:—"Prosecutions conducted under the Ordinances of 1857 and 1867 were admitted to have been attended with serious scandals and abuses; and the system of employing informers in the detection of illicit prostitution was emphatically condemned, as it had proved quite ineffectual in suppressing either unlicensed houses, or unregistered prostitutes. The Brothel Laws, it was contended, had neither checked nor modified the spread of disease, and rather to licensed than to unregistered houses was to be attributed the usual source of infection. Houses for the sole use of Chinese had not been in any appreciable way benefited by Govern-

ment supervision, and such places should never have been made sources of revenue. The employment of Inspectors and Interpreters had frequently been the source of abuse and corruption, as the work they have to perform is so demoralising; and somebody is highly praised for not permitting the general body of the Police to assist in carrying out the Brothel Laws. Medical examinations of Chinese women are not approved of, as such examinations wound the fine susceptibilities of these ladies, and expose them to the ridicule and contempt of their countrymen. The quasi-official recognition of houses of ill fame implied by granting them licenses is considered a very objectionable system, as it imposes responsibilities on the Government which it cannot adequately fulfil. As all these conclusions are unfavorable to the existing brothel system, the Commissioners' personal convictions would have led them to recommend its entire abolition and the repeal of the Ordinance; however as the high Naval and Military authorities, to whom the papers were submitted, arrived at conclusions which did not coincide with those of Mr. T. C. Hayllar and Dr. Eitel, the recommendation was simply limited to the extent that all prosecutions against the keepers and inmates of unlicensed brothels be abandoned. It was further recommended that licenses should be strictly limited to houses for the accommodation of foreigners, and that prosecutions against women for offences, which need not be detailed, should be abandoned altogether.

On the 27th March, 1879, Mr. Keswick forwarded a note in which he entirely disagreed with the opinions of his brother Commissioners, excepting in regard to abuses of a serious character, which he admitted, had undoubtedly occurred; but which, he sensibly remarked, seemed inevitable in working Acts which required the services of the lowest classes of Europeans and natives. Mr. Keswick made no recommendations, apparently contented to allow matters to remain *in statu quo*, looking upon the defects of the Ordinance and the abuses connected with its proper working, as necessary evils.

Although we have carefully read and re-read the whole of the evidence laid before the Commissioners, (a most tedious and unwholesome task he it confessed) and devoted a good deal of time to studying the conclusions arrived at, and the suggestions offered by Mr. T. C. Hayllar, and Dr. Eitel, we are rather at a loss to understand on what tangible grounds those gentlemen based the Utopian changes they would have liked to propose. That the system of carrying out the Ordinance has been impregnated with abuses of a doubtful character was self-evident, by the necessity for a Commission of Inquiry. It seems a bold assertion to say that the spread of infection has not been to some extent checked, or prevented by the operation of the Brothel Laws, and is contrary we think to the weight of evidence produced. Nor can it be maintained on reliable evidence that it is to licensed, rather than to unregistered houses that the source of this evil must be looked for. It will be conceded that laws, no matter of how objectionable character they may be, must have some officers to carry them out; so that the Commissioners' remarks about the employment of Inspectors and Interpreters being a frequent source of corruption, without suggesting any adequate substitute for these objectionable functionaries, can hardly be considered of much, if of any, material consequence to the subject. So long as the Ordinance exists we must have men to look after its working, and we really cannot see that because men happen to be called Inspectors or Interpreters of the Medical department, why they should be less honest, or more open to corrup-

tion than if they were designated by any other title, or belonged to any other branch of the service. It is to be presumed that the officers of the Medical department are as passing honest as other servants of the Government or they would hardly be retained in the public service; and because the Inspectors of Police, doubtless out of an *esprit de corps* which is much to be commended, prefer their own especial duties in the detection of the various other branches of crime to the peculiar and disagreeable details attached to the business of a brothel inspector, we are at a loss to discover why these particular men, should be spoken of with such studied disparagement. Again the reference to the Chinese women objecting to the medical officer's examination on the score of delicacy, and because it exposes them to ridicule and contempt, is rather a refreshing piece of innocence to come from an old lawyer like Mr. Hayllar. It has been proved by practical demonstration that the licensing of houses of ill-fame in this colony is an absolute necessity, and it behoves the Government to initiate some system which will enable it to adequately undertake the responsibilities attached to this duty.

What has been the practical result of the immense amount of labor gone through by this celebrated Commission! Has anything been done? The Ordinances have not been repealed, and we believe that we are correct in stating that the business of the Registrar-General's department is managed exactly as it was before, with the single exception that informers are no longer employed, and prosecutions of keepers of unlicensed houses have ceased. This is surely a paltry return for such an expenditure of money, time, ink, and paper, indicated in the publication of that expensive and expansive volume which details the manifold labors of the Commission! A walk through our streets at night time will soon convince unbelievers that unlicensed houses have increased fifty fold during the past two years, with the inevitable results of increasing infection, and filling our streets with the very worst class of women. This is not what was expected from the Commission. If the Registrar-General's department wants re-organising, let steps be at once taken to have it placed in working order, so that the Ordinances may be fairly and properly carried out. If the present Inspectors are not fit for their work, let others be appointed who can be trusted, and at a salary which will place them outside of the fear of being corrupted. Give these officers a proper status in the Government service, and do not encourage or permit other officers to speak of them in terms of contempt and disparagement. Illicit prostitution in Hongkong has become such a crying evil that the Government must sooner or later take steps to bring it within reasonable bounds, and we hope that Mr. Russell, who probably knows more about the matters we have been referring to than any officer in the colony, will commence action in a new sphere, with instructions to use every legitimate means to carry out the provisions of the Ordinances to their fullest extent.

The public acts of a Government, to be fairly gauged for good or evil, must be judged by results. Placing absurd prejudices to one side, and viewing the question from the practical stand point which all sensible men desirous of judging a case on its merits would adopt, it will hardly be denied that Sir John Pope Hennessy's almost entire abolition of flogging criminals, stands forth as one of the most successful measures ever introduced into the criminal procedure of this colony. We arrive at this result by plain facts, which require no elaboration to prove our case.

We do not intend arguing from a humanitarian point of view, but will

simply state what the condition of the Colony was a few years ago when flogging—public flogging—at the Harbour Master's Office was a daily occurrence, and compare it with the present state of affairs, when public flogging has become a thing of the past, and flogging in private has been reduced to a minimum; so that the public may be enabled to see the results, the actual undoubted results which speak for themselves, of a policy which has been persistently and most unfairly vilified and condemned by the local press, but which nevertheless has much to commend it to public approbation.

What was the condition of Hongkong some eight or ten years ago when all these so-called repressive measures were in full swing? Crimes of a serious character were rampant throughout the Colony, and after dark it was absolutely dangerous to walk abroad unarmed. As we have already stated, the flogging post daily witnessed scenes, enacted under the protecting arm of the law, which for cruel brutality vied with the horrible degradations of the worst days of Negro slavery and Russian serfdom.

What is the condition of Hongkong now, when the enlightened principles of advanced statesmanship have been brought to bear upon what was a disgrace to our modern civilisation? Of petty crimes we have still plenty, and always will have, but offences of a serious character are of rare occurrence, and even at night-time our streets and roads are perfectly safe; far safer in fact than the streets of London.

In the face of these facts, which can be proved on reference to our criminal statistics, or by application to any of the principal officers of our police, what inferences must be drawn? Is it not patent to every one who is willing to see straight, that the improved organisation of our police force, and the departure from the disgraceful brutalities of the past, to a rational and well devised system of punishments, inaugurated by Governor Hennessy, has established peace and good order where lawlessness reigned supreme?

Apropos of our recent remarks anent the *China Mail's* unfair and garbled account of Governor Hennessy's policy in Barbadoes, the following extract from the great Liberal "weekly," the *Spectator*, published in 1875, just after Mr. Hennessy (as he then was) assumed the Governorship is of interest:—

"Mr. Pope Hennessy, the New Governor of Barbadoes, has had, like every other Governor, to receive an address from the Bishop and his clergy. The address was presented, and as it asked protection for the Church, and Mr. Hennessy is a decided Roman Catholic, the situation was a little awkward, but the Governor turned it very neatly. He told the deputation that he had once, when in Parliament, travelled from the east of Europe night and day to vote against a proposal which attacked the Church of England. Arriving an hour or two before the division, he made the vote, which would have been 274 to 273, an equal one, and the Speaker, as usual, gave his vote for further consideration. Mr. Hennessy had, in fact, 'saved the Church' for that night, and was told by Mr. Disraeli that his vote was a 'significant incident in his career.' The obvious deduction for the Bishop of Barbadoes was that the Governor would protect the Church in the colony, and he made it still more plain by declaring that he regarded the Anglican Church as 'a breakwater against the tide of infidelity now unhappily rising in Europe,' an opinion in which Dr. Mitchison no doubt heartily coincided."

The consistent and impartial support which Sir John Pope Hennessy has given the Church of England throughout his public career, reflects greatly to his credit, justly enhances his reputation as a Governor far above paltry party differences, and clearly exemplifies the broad lines on which his principles of statesmanship are based.